coupling the facsimile machine to the computer;

conditioning the computer to receive digital facsimile signals representing data on a scanned document; and

conditioning the facsimile machine to transmit digital signals representing data on a scanned document to the computer, said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine, said transmitted digital facsimile signals being received directly into the computer ~~interface~~ through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link, thereafter, said computer processing the received digital facsimile signals of the scanned document as needed.

Claim 28. (cancelled)

Claim 29. (currently amended) - The method of claim 27 to create a scanning capability through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between a facsimile machine and a computer by transfer of ~~non-intercepted~~ scanned image data signals from a the facsimile machine through said a connection, ~~containing data representative of scanned images,~~ said facsimile machine by-passing or isolated from the a public network telephone line, and connected to an appropriate receiving port of a computer or other office product capable of receiving and processing said signals.

Claims 30 and 31. (cancelled)

Claim 32. (previously amended) - The method of claim 27, including transferring a parallel data source signal of a scanned image from said facsimile machine to said computer.

Claim 33. (currently amended). - The method of claim 27, including transferring a _digital_ serial data source signal of a scanned image from said facsimile machine to said computer.

Claim 34. (currently amended) - ~~The method of claim 27, including replacing the digital signal with an analog scanned image source signal from the facsimile machine to said computer through a modem interface.~~

A method of creating a scanning capability from a facsimile machine to a computer equipped with a modem, with scanned image data signals transferred through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and the computer, comprising the steps of:

by-passing or isolating the facsimile machine and the computer from the public network telephone line;

coupling the facsimile machine to the computer;

conditioning the computer to receive facsimile signals representing data on a scanned document; and

conditioning the facsimile machine to transmit signals representing data on a scanned document to the computer, said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine, said transmitted facsimile

signals being received through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link to the computer modem, thereafter, said computer processing the received facsimile signals of the scanned document as needed.

Claim 35. (canceled)

Claim 36. (currently amended) - A method of making a facsimile machine operable as a scanner and or printer for a personal computer, by transferring digital data through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and the computer, each of the facsimile machine and personal computer for communicating normally using at least one public network telephone line, comprising the steps of:

configuring the facsimile machine to communicate with the personal computer using a digital connector port of the facsimile machine and personal computer, with both the facsimile machine and personal computer isolated from said at least one public network telephone line;

arranging the facsimile machine to be in a digital connection mode; and shifting the personal computer to a connection mode for sending or receiving nonintercepted digital signals through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link for scanning and or printing between the computer and the facsimile machine, in a facsimile machine format, using the digital connector port of the personal computer, said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the transfer of the said scanning and or printing signals between the computer and the facsimile machine.

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Claim 37. (cancelled)

Claim 38. (original) - The method of claim 36 including using RS 232 connector ports to interface between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 39. (original) - The method of claim 36 including using parallel connector ports to interface between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 40. (previously amended) - The method of claim 36, using RS 232, parallel or other suitable digital port type connectors to interface between said facsimile machine and said computer.

Claim 41. (currently amended) - The method of claim 27 further comprising optically recognizing the scanned data within the computer and converting the scanned data into character codes within the computer, said computer being equipped with Optical Character Recognition Software.

Claim 42. (currently amended) - The method of claim 36 further comprising optically recognizing the scanned data within the computer and converting the scanned data into character codes within the computer, said computer being equipped with Optical Character Recognition Software.

Claim 43. (currently amended) - A method of using a facsimile machine as a scanner and or printer by transferring data signals through a bi-directional direct

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connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and ~~for~~ the personal computer, each of the facsimile machine and personal computer for communicating using telephone types of circuits, said facsimile machine and computer being isolated from the public telephone network, comprising the steps of:

(a) configuring the facsimile machine to communicate with the personal computer using the facsimile machine, and by-passing or isolating the facsimile machine and computer from the public telephone network;

(b) arranging the facsimile machine to be in a simulated off-hook condition, or connection mode; and

(c) shifting the personal computer to an off-hook condition, or connection mode for sending or receiving ~~nonintercepted~~ signals in facsimile formats through ~~a~~ the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the personal computer and the facsimile machine;

said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the transfer of the ~~said~~ scanning and ~~or~~ printing signals between the computer and the facsimile machine.

Claim 44. (currently amended) - The method of claim 43 including using serial data transmissions for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 45. (currently amended) - The method of claim 43 including using parallel data transmissions for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 46. (currently amended) - The method of claim 43 including using analog data transmissions for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 47. (currently amended) - The method of claim 43 using analog or digital serial, or parallel data transmissions, for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link, between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 48. (currently amended) - The method of claim 43 further comprising optically recognizing the scanned data within the computer and converting the scanned data into character codes within the computer, said computer being equipped with Optical Character Recognition Software.

Claims 49-51 (cancelled)

Claim 52. (currently amended) - A method of using a facsimile machine with a computer, one or both of which being connected to a telephone line such that said

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facsimile machine operates as a scanning and printing device for the computer

when isolated from the telephone line comprising the steps of:

(a) coupling the facsimile machine to the computer through a bi-directional direct

connection via a passive link;

(b) generating a signal to simulate an off-hook condition or connection mode

providing a direct path whereby the facsimile machine is conditioned to transmit or

receive signals without interception through the bi-directional direct connection via

the passive link to the computer;

(c) generating a facsimile machine signal whereby the computer is conditioned to

receive signals representing data on a scanned document; and

(d) generating a computer signal whereby the facsimile machine is conditioned to

receive signals representing data on a document to be printed;

said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software

enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine or

the sending of computer data to the facsimile machine for printing.

Claim 53. (currently amended) - A method of using a facsimile machine with a

computer, one or both of which being connected to a telephone line such that said

facsimile machine operates as a printing device for the computer when isolated

from the telephone line, comprising the steps of:

(a) coupling the facsimile machine to the computer through a bi-directional direct

connection via a passive link, which enables transfer of digital image data in both

directions;

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(b) generating a signal representative of a facsimile machine communications signal, whereby the computer is conditioned to transmit signals representing data on a document to be printed; and

(c) generating a signal to simulate an off-hook condition or connection mode providing a direct path whereby the facsimile machine is conditioned to receive ~~nonintercepted~~ signals through the <u>bi-directional direct connection via the</u> passive link representing data from the computer of a document to be printed.

Claim 54. (currently amended) - A method of making a facsimile machine operable as a scanner and ~~or~~ printer for a computer, each of the facsimile machine and computer for communicating normally using at least one public network telephone line, comprising the steps of:

(a) configuring the facsimile machine to communicate with the personal computer through <u>a bi-directional direct connection via</u> a passive link between ~~using~~ a digital connector port on the facsimile machine and a digital connector port on the computer, with both the facsimile machine and computer by-passing or isolated from said at least one public network telephone line;

(b) arranging the facsimile machine to send or receive digital data signals; and

(c) coupling the digital data signals through <u>the bi-directional</u> <u>direct connection via</u> <u>the passive link between</u> ~~to~~ the personal computer and the facsimile machine; said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine or the sending of computer data to the facsimile machine for printing.

Claim 55 (cancelled)

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 28, 35 and 37